

California Postsecondary Education Commission

Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program

Project Description

Project Title	San Joaquin Valley Mathematics Project STIR		
Grant Amount: \$124,010	Grant Period: February 1, 2007 - May 31, 2008		
Grade Level: 6-12	Subject Matter: Mathematics		
Institute of Higher Education	California State University, Fresno		
Local Education Agency	Coalinga-Huron Unified School District		
Additional Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caruthers Unified School District ▪ Fresno County Office of Education ▪ Riverdale Unified School District 		
Need for Project/ Population To Be Served:	<p>The need for teacher support and retention is particularly acute in California Central Valley, where the population of EL and impoverished children continues to grow, while the number of teachers and credential students is declining precipitously. This observation is confirmed by figures reported in California IS Teaching Force 2006: Key Issues and Trends, the recently-released report by the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning, as well as by the Dean of the School of Education at Fresno State, where Spring 2007 enrollment figures are dramatically lower than last year. The knowledge gained from working with new teachers and teachers at hard-to-staff schools, as well as the networks fanned, will benefit all districts throughout our Region.</p>		
Project Goals:	<p>1. To provide a coherent and comprehensive induction support program for teachers of secondary mathematics that will: increase the retention of teachers of mathematics in the profession and within the school and district; deepen teachers' mathematics content understanding and extend pedagogical content knowledge; increase teacher leadership, including providing opportunities for leadership roles and educational advancement; and establish and encourage a school culture that is collegial and supportive among the school's mathematics teachers and between the mathematics teachers and school administrators. 2. To conduct meaningful research that contributes to the knowledge base on mathematics teacher retention and disseminate broadly the findings. 3. To address the following teacher roles: teacher as a lifelong learner, teacher as a professional, teacher as a classroom teacher, and teacher as a leader.</p>		
Summary of Activities:	<p>We will provide secondary mathematics teachers from the three partner districts with intensive professional development, including two Saturdays in the Spring semester, a 9-day institute in June (including a weekend residential retreat). Teachers will participate in two Saturday events in the Fall semester and attend the CMC-North conference in November. This format will be repeated for the first three years of the project with the Retention Cohort, with the content evolving as they grow in leadership. Throughout each school year, we will work on forming Professional Learning Communities at the schools, implementing lesson study groups, action research, and virtual communities through video conferencing facilities and other technologies. Caruthers is already involved with the Fresno County Office of Education in Vertical Teaming. We will incorporate this training and structure. During Year 4, the Retention Cohort teacher leaders will attend the NCTM conference in San Diego. Through Years 4 and 5, established programs and groups at the schools will continue to function and be supported by our team. The Retention Cohort teacher leaders will be involved in teaching and mentoring at least ten teachers each year, beginning with a summer institute.</p>		
Outcomes Expected:	<p>Teachers participating in the retention cohort professional development will have a higher teacher retention rate and engage in more leadership and career enhancement activities than teachers in the comparison cohort. Additionally, retention cohort teachers will show increases in mathematics content knowledge as a result of participation.</p>		
Teachers Served	27	Students Served	7,500
Project Website:			
Lisa Portela IHE Contact	Email: lportela@csufresno.edu Phone: 559-278-0477	William McDermott LEA Contact	Email: lcubertson@chusd.k12.ca.us Phone: 559-935-7500